

# Wallace in Signing to Play Next Season Shoots for New Major League Record---24th Year as a Big Leaguer

## FEW PLAYERS SAW 20 YEARS SERVICE

Four, Wallace, Wagner, Lajoie and Clarke, in Modern Group.

## OLD RECORDS ARE FAULTY

Give Major League Credit to Men Who Put in Part of Time in Minors.

By FREDERICK G. LIES.

The present old fashioned winter seems to have brought a lot of the baseball old timers out of their shells. Newspaper offices have been bombarded with letters, arguments and clippings by these veteran fans, who seek to prove what a feeling of respect the present day stock of players has fallen to when compared with the men who manned the big leagues a generation ago.

It was the venerable Cap Anson who was the old boys' started when he recently picked an all star team for all time, without a single twentieth century player winning as much as honorable mention on his team. Having discovered a champion in "Baby" Anson, the old fashioned player and fan has rushed to the colors. And when one of these old timers gets wound up there is no cure for him. The only thing to do is to stand by until he has blown off his steam.

The truth of the matter is that few of these old fellows have grown with baseball. As far as matters concerning baseball, they still live in the past, and nothing a modern ball player could do would make him as good as the men of the past. Cap Anson is the best exponent of that class. To him the present lot of diamond performers are just ball players, and good ball players, but as for stars, why, there simply haven't been any since he stopped playing.

## Gov. Tender an Exception.

One of the few exceptions is Gov. Tenney, president of the National League. One of "Baby" Anson's pitchers in Chicago in the late eighties. "We, of course, had some great players in the old days," said Tenney, "but to say that baseball has not grown is foolish. Baseball is in a continual state of evolution and advances all the time. A little sport like baseball could not stand still; it must grow in technical skill, in the number of players, in the importance of each as a sport."

## Others Who Played 20 Years.

Among the old timers who played twenty years or more whom our friend neglected to mention were Billy Hart, Jack Gleason, Bill Gleason, Jesse Burdett, Roger Connor, George Van Haltren, and Billy Hamilton, and the modern quartet of whiskered veterans Rhody Wallace, Hans Wagner, Nap Lajoie and Fred Clarke.

Jim O'Rourke, though he played ball for thirty-three years, only seventeen years of his career were spent in the big leagues. After leaving the National League to become a minor league player in the Connecticut League, toward the end of his playing career Jim played on the same team as his son, and there was quite a little expression of honor in some of the circles when Jim said his son, his own flesh and blood, to the Yankees, so Jim O'Rourke, might have his fling in the big leagues. Unfortunately for the latter

## A GROUP OF STARS—PAST AND PRESENT—WHO WORE BASEBALL HARNESS FOR A SCORE OF YEARS OR MORE.



FRED CLARKE, former Pirate manager, ran the gamut of National League pitching for twenty-two years. Photo taken in 1903.

NAP LAJOIE, slugged big league pitching for 21 years. Photo taken in 1904.

RHODY WALLACE, Ready to begin his 24th season.

GEORGE VAN HALTREN, saw service for 24 years.

THEO. BREITENSTEIN, who got twenty years of wear out of his sturdy left arm.

JACK GLASSCOCK, who played 26 years.

LAVE CROSS, who played ball until they cut the uniform off him.

HARRY DAVIS, retired this winter after playing the greater part of 22 years.

KID GLEASON, who knocked around for 25 years, a pitcher and infielder.

CY YOUNG, Has most enviable record of all pitchers. Clicked off 508 victories during twenty-two years as a big league hurler.

Photo taken in 1901.

HANS WAGNER Completed his 27th season as a professional last year.

## Rhody Wallace Holds the Record for Continuous Performance

From all available records, Wallace has the record for continuous big league service, though the veteran Rhody has played nearly every season since 1892, was out of the big league for a spell last year, when he started the season as playing manager of the Lincoln team. He finished his season as an American League umpire.

Anson and Cy Young were supposed to hold the record for continuous big league service with twenty-two seasons. It was Wallace's half year in Lincoln that he missed, he broke a record when he acted as utility infielder for the Cardinals during the latter part of last season.

## Cy Young's Record Best.

Cy Young's record, of course, is the most famous ever hung up by a pitcher and no one has ever approached it. Cy's big league service was continuous, ranging between 1890 and 1911. He was willing to try a twenty-third season, making the training trip with the Braves in the spring of 1912, but then contented himself with a regular game for the Boston Red Sox. He was picked for a percentage of 620.

Mathewson pitched sixteen seasons, though he appeared in only a few. In 1900 when he broke in with the Giants, Eddie Plank would have had a great chance to beat or tie Young's record had he not been so old. When Eddie Plank was picked for the Athletics, at the time Mack signed Plank for the Athletics in June, 1901, the famous left hander lacked 26 days only two months. Many pitchers have played in five to seven big league seasons at the age of 20. At the age of 21, Plank has seventeen big league seasons behind him.

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## First Bargain Bill Was Played September 19, 1883

Philadelphia and Cleveland Were the Participants and the Westerners Won by 5 to 3 and 5 to 1 Scores.

Religiously on opening day or after opening day, the public prints run "first" tables, showing who made the first run, first hit, first error, etc. Guide makers have been unable to discover the first individual who conceived the idea of making players' pastime tables in one afternoon, but they think they have fixed on the date of the first of the bargain bills in the National League, that having been played in Philadelphia on September 19, 1883, when the Cleveland Indians won twice, by scores of 5 to 3 and 5 to 1 respectively. It is not sure, however, that this was the first double header in the National League.

## Chicago Club News Under Ban.

Whether the scribes disagreed with the magnates much about policies in 1876 is not known. Certainly five years later the pen wielders handed it to the men operating the ball clubs for certain of their actions. Chicago and Troy played a game on the day President Garfield was being buried, and the Windy City's leading player placed the blame not only on the officials of the two clubs and on the president of the league but on the players as well. The Chicago writer, purposely, misspelled the name of President Garfield, calling him Hubert, and castigating the participants in this manner:

## Baseball at Yale.

Candidates Will Be Called Out by Capt. Lyman Next Tuesday.

## Busy Week in Hockey.

Three Games to Be Played in Brooklyn Ice Palace.

## Chess Masters at Play.

An international chess masters tournament, the most important in recent years, will be held at Marshall's Chess Club on Friday afternoon and night, February 15. The contestants will be: Duke Marshall, the American champion; Janowski, French champion; Jaffe, former Western champion; Charles, New York State champion; Black, champion of Brooklyn; Bergstein of New England; Hodges, former American champion; and Herman Holms. The officials are H. M. Hartshorne, referee, and Leon Redlich, scorer.

## Cricketers to Dine.

The fifteenth annual dinner of the New York Veteran Cricketers Association will be held next Thursday evening at the Restaurant du Gourmet, on West Fifty-third street.

JIM O'ROURKE, Daddy of them all. Spent thirty years as an active player, seventeen in the National League.

CAP ANSON, who fought a twenty-two year campaign. Taken in the first year of the National League 1876.

## DARTMOUTH'S NOVICE MEETS.

Weekly Series Will Begin at Hanover This Week.

## Fencing Dates Issued.

Intercollegiate Tourney to Be Staged at Columbia March 23.

## Clymer Talks About Minors.

Derby Bill Clymer, the effervescent leader of the Louisville club and generally regarded as the best minor league manager in the country, has some interesting remarks to make about minor league ball next season.

## Mac's \$2,000 Salary Limit.

George Mack will pay salaries of only \$2,000 a year next year, this being his maximum figure. How long will Mack be permitted to hang on in Philadelphia? Mack has been a great figure in baseball. He and McGraw are the only managers who have won six pennants and are the only managers who have won five world series, and he has developed more star players than any other figure in baseball. His past record only inspires respect.

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## DONOVAN'S TASK IS NOT AN EASY ONE

Wild Bill Will Tackle a Big Job as Coach of Tigers' Pitchers.

## OTHER BASEBALL GOSSIP

Bill Donovan's friends, and they are legion, were glad to hear that Smiling William has landed back with the Detroit Tigers as coach and general adviser to pitchers. Returning to Detroit is like going back home to Wild Bill. Though Philadelphia claims Donovan as one of its sons, Bill put in the greater part of his career with Detroit. He pitched for the Tigers from 1902 to 1913 inclusive.

Donovan always has been a warm favorite in Detroit. The fans there have the same affection for him that the New York fans hold for Matty and the Chicago fans for Ed Walsh. Should Jennings ever sever his connections with Detroit, Donovan is sure to succeed him.

Donovan's task in Detroit is no easy one. In fact he is called upon to tackle one of the toughest tasks in the big league, namely help Hugh Jennings develop a pitching staff. A peculiar flint has followed the Detroit pitchers since the passing of Donovan. Mullen and Summers. The club has tried more than a hundred pitchers, but has been unable to get a first class pitching staff. Dubuc was good for a while, so were Daus and Coveleskie, but never since the old championship days in Detroit has Jennings had what might be called a first class pitching staff. In both 1916 and 1917 Detroit would have won again with one more reliable, seasoned pitcher.

Donovan has had the same flint with first basemen since Kirby Brannfield was traded to the Phillies in 1905. The Pirates have tried first basemen by the dozen without much success.

Donovan will carry the same system to Detroit with him which helped him to develop a strong staff of youngsters on the Yankees in 1916 when the club was headed for a pennant. An uncanny number of injuries have wrecked his club and drove the Yanks out of the running. Bill never recovered from that blow. Had fate treated him differently in 1916 he might have won a pennant in his second year as a big leaguer and be named among the baseball miracle men, like George Stallings and Ted Morgan.

Donovan's theory of developing a young pitcher is to leave him in to take his lumps. Donovan believes that by pulling out a pitcher whenever he gets into trouble, a manager merely weakens the pitcher's spirit. "You never can tell what a club will do until the players are put to the test, bases full, no one out, and all of that kind of thing," says the subject. "The same applies to a pitcher. You can't tell what he can do until you let him face a couple of such crucial situations."

Must Have Confidence in Pitcher.

"Often a pitcher is in trouble through no fault of his own. A batter may take a wild swing at a pitcher and occasionally drive it into the outfield. The next time the pitcher may enrage the batter, who will get a curve around the hands of his bat and dump it into the infield. The pitcher must have confidence in himself, the fact he has been pitching good ball all the time. The fans may not suspect what is going on in the field, and begin to doubt the pitcher's prowess. But here is a situation which requires the manager to keep confidence in a pitcher. Lack of confidence by the manager has ruined many a fine pitcher."

The shadow of a doubt always hangs over every young pitcher coming up. He is anxious to make good, yet is afraid he'll be sent back. I always tell every young pitcher on the Yankees that he has his chance, and that if he could show something he would be kept or we would keep a string on him. Every man is entitled to his chance. I know, because I had to go through the mill myself."

Bill was sent back to the minors after being first tried out by the Washington club. He returned to the majors, and as much then as he ever did but was not given a proper opportunity to show it. Any young pitcher coming up with the Yankees must have confidence in himself, and if they follow his instructions, their opportunity for striking around in the big leagues will be greatly increased.

Clymer Talks About Minors.

Derby Bill Clymer, the effervescent leader of the Louisville club and generally regarded as the best minor league manager in the country, has some interesting remarks to make about minor league ball next season.

There isn't a manager in the American Association who has any idea how to develop a young pitcher. I never saw such a situation. Usually there are teams which are supposed to go strong and get above fifth place, but this season minor league baseball is so floundering that nobody can tell how a team is likely to stand until after the season is well under way.

No clubs have hesitated to sell a player that the big leagues wanted, and we have turned out more players than any other figure in baseball. His past record only inspires respect.

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Mathewson pitched sixteen seasons, though he appeared in only a few. In 1900 when he broke in with the Giants, Eddie Plank would have had a great chance to beat or tie Young's record had he not been so old. When Eddie Plank was picked for the Athletics, at the time Mack signed Plank for the Athletics in June, 1901, the famous left hander lacked 26 days only two months. Many pitchers have played in five to seven big league seasons at the age of 20. At the age of 21, Plank has seventeen big league seasons behind him.

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